



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

Immanuel Informer

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He Holds the Future

Valerie Winston

It is August and plans are underway for the beginning of a new school year. Part of those plans include celebrating the 170th anniversary of the school. The beginning of every school year brings a rush of excitement as we look forward to what is planned for the year. I can only imagine how those early pioneers of this school must have felt as they planned not just for the school year, but for the establishment of the actual school. I'm sure the early focus was the lessons to be taught as well and being sustainable enough to continue the school itself. I'm not sure if they could have imagined that 170 years later the school would still be going strong.

Our theme for the upcoming school year is "He Holds the Future". It is based on Philippians 1:6 which says, *"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."* I'm sure those early founders were concerned about just how long the school would last. Starting something can sometimes lead to fear and trepidation. But we do know that within the first month of school more teachers needed to be hired. So maybe that led to less fear about the future.

Throughout the history of Immanuel there have been ups and downs. Enrollment has wavered from time to time. There may have been other issues and factors that led to some stress regarding the future of the school. There have been name changes, faculty and staff changes, building changes, and a variety of other changes. But God has seen fit to bless our school and it has persevered.

With the many changes there has probably been worry and concern about what would happen to the school. Those worries continue to arise from time to time, but while we don't know the future, we know who holds it. We don't need to fear the future because God is going to be there every step of the way. Matthew 6:26 says, "Look at the birds of the air, they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

It is my hope that as we plan for this school year and plan for our anniversary celebration that in another 170 years, others will look back and see how God continue to hold the future of Immanuel in His perfect and all-powerful hands.

In Giving We Receive

God is the greatest giver, and, because we were made in His image, we were created to give. God uses giving to help direct our hearts to Him and away from the love of the world. Faithful and generous giving is evidence that God is first in our lives. In giving, we break the grip that this world has on us.

We don't give to be blessed, but God's Word clearly tells us that through our faithful generosity God will bless us. Several verses in Scripture promise us God's abundance when we honor Him through our giving. (Proverbs 3:10; Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38). We are certain of His spiritual blessings and possibly material blessings.

In the miracle of the Feeding of the Five Thousand, which is found in all four Gospels, we find a truism that God blesses those who give. Jesus had attracted a large crowd to whom He was preaching. When it was time for dinner, Jesus' disciples wanted to send the people away to find their own food. Andrew, one of the disciples, told Jesus that a boy had given them five barley loaves and two fish. If the disciples had chosen to keep the boy's lunch for themselves, it could possibly have been enough food for Jesus and His twelve disciples. Realizing that Jesus intended to use the lunch to feed the crowd of people, the disciples became anxious about their situation, overlooking what Jesus could do with this meager amount of food.

Jesus had another idea: He had the people sit down in groups. He gave thanks for the bread and fish. After the blessing, the disciples began to distribute the food. As the disciples gave each person a portion of the bread and pieces of the fish, the food never ran out. In his book *Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey*, William Chancellor Weedon shares the following:

Stop and ask yourself what would have happened if the disciples had held onto their little lunch, had kept it for themselves in fear, terrified that there would be no more if they gave it away and then they would go hungry? How much would each have had at the close of that day? A handful? That's it. But Jesus began to open their eyes that day to see a new truth in God's economy. By giving away to others, they ended up richer themselves! They ended up with a basket of bread each, far more than that fistful they had started out with. Hands clutching in fear were transformed into hands opened wide to give away.

May God grant us giving hearts so that He can multiply our gifts to help others and to extend His kingdom.

Blessings on your Stewardship Journey

We Are Accountable

From the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), we learn that our financial lives are important to God and that He wants us to multiply the gifts He entrusts to us. In the parable, a master (Jesus) entrusted three servants with different numbers of talents before going on a journey. After the master returned, he asked each to give an account of what he had done with what he had been given. The master commended the two servants who faithfully and wisely invested the talents given to them. Because they were faithful in their efforts to please and serve him, the master told each of them, *“Well done, good and faithful servant!”*

When we acknowledge God as owner of our resources, we understand our obligation and responsibility to be faithful caretakers of all that He entrusts to us. As God’s stewards, we realize that all things, including our money, are to be used for His purpose. Ask this question: “What is God’s will for the money He has given me?” We understand through the Parable of the Talents that our heavenly Father is pleased when we manage our money responsibly and displeased when we handle it poorly. Jesus said, *“If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?”* (Luke 16:11). There is a direct connection between our faithful use of money here and now and the “true riches” God wants to entrust to us. Jesus calls us to handle money wisely and prudently as well as have a proper attitude and relationship toward money.

Just as Jesus held the servants in the parable accountable, He holds us accountable for what He entrusts to us. This parable leads us to the conclusion that wise management of our money, along with all our gifts, pleases the Lord, and poor management greatly displeases Him. When He comes again, *“... then each of us will give an account of himself to God”* (Romans 14:12). We will want to hear, *“Well done, good and faithful servant!”*

**OUR LIVES SERVE AS A MEANS
FOR GOD TO DISPENSE HIS LOVE
AND CARE TO THOSE AROUND US.**

“For we were called to freedom,
brothers. Only do not use your freedom
as an opportunity for the flesh, but
through love serve one another”
(Galatians 5:13).



**JESUS’ SACRIFICIAL LOVE
DEFINES US, AND IT MAKES
US PEOPLE OF PURPOSE.**

“By this all people will know that
you are My disciples, if you have
Love for one another”
(John 13:35).

Stewardship Corner

As God’s people, we have one primary purpose which is to advance His kingdom. God tells us through the Apostle Paul that He *“desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (1 Timothy 2:4). We are God’s instruments or channels through which He works to share the life-saving Gospel with all people. God calls each of us to use our time, talents, and resources faithfully to be His light in a dark world. We are called to use all of God’s gifts to us for the purpose of helping others to come to know His Son. In our relationships with God and others, we have the purpose of giving Him glory through our witnessing, loving, serving, and giving.

Make an Impact Tax-Free Did you know you can use your IRA to support Immanuel Lutheran Church and School today without paying income tax on the money?

If you're 70½ or older, you can use the IRA charitable rollover (sometimes called the qualified charitable distribution or QCD) to make a tax-free gift to Immanuel Lutheran Church from your IRA. You can transfer any amount up to \$100,000 directly to Immanuel Lutheran Church without paying income tax on the distribution. An added bonus: You'll have the satisfaction of seeing your gift in action during your lifetime.

PANTRY UPDATE

Cash & Online Donations: \$130

Free Will Offerings: \$92

Grant Award: (1) NID-Endowment Fund \$7,800

Pending Grant Applications: (0)

New Distribution Partnerships: 0

New Donation Partnerships: 1-Atlantic Food

Wholesalers-Elgin, IL

PYHT Food Distributions & Activity:

In-Kind Food Donations Received: Sysco, Costco,

EYFP, Michael Lewis Co, Elmwood Park Pantry,

Atlantic Foods 41,000 lbs.

PYHT Pop Up-Pantry Families Served: 100 + 67

(Fridays) **New Record!**

PYHT Pop Up-Pantry Individuals Served: 380

PYHT **New Friday Giveaways:**

6/17 Families Served: 12

6/24 Families Served: 17

7/1 Families Served: 16

7/15 Families Served: 22

PYHT Food Relief Agencies & Ministries Served:

Youth Crossroads, Westchester Food Pantry, Lyons

Church, St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen, St. Paul-Oak Lawn,

BEDS Plus - LaGrange, Elmhurst Food Pantry, Leyden

Township FP, Inner City Impact, Elmwood Park Pantry,

Village of Hillside, Downers Grove Soup Kitchen,

Chatham Fields Lutheran Church - Chicago, Chicago

Hope Church, Tabor Lutheran Church - Chicago, Leyden

Township Food Pantry, Chicago Heights Food Pantry.

Volunteer Stipends Paid Out: \$200

NEWS:

Friday Distribution Trial

Friday Summer Pantry Days have been working well, but a lot of work, we were happy to serve the families that attended, and many sent text messages thanking for such a great assortment and abundance of food. We hope to

continue these events and will require volunteer helpers for several hours on Fridays - 10am-1pm, during the Summer. Please join us if you are free! It's a pleasure to be able to interact with the families that have been coming to our pop-up pantries, Glory be to God while impacting our community! WE served an additional 67 food boxes and families seemed to enjoy "shopping" for the items they want and need. We opted for "drive-through" giveaway last Friday because of the rainstorm and had our biggest turnout so far.

Friday giveaway will continue until August 5th.

PYHT Expansion Project Update:

Grants written to fund a new building to Safeway Foundation and the Chicago Regional Food System Fund were denied this month. We are seeking other funding sources and new grants applications



For All Families in Need

SUMMER Food Giveaways

FREE EVENT Saturday, July 9th
Saturday, August 13th
Saturday September 10th

Starting at **11am**
(or until we run out of food, arrive early)

Safe-Drive Through Distribution

Immanuel Lutheran Church-FOOD PANTRY
2317 S. Wolf Rd. Hillside, IL 60162

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL US AT (708) 562-5590
OR VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.immanuel-hillside.org/pyht

ENROLL HERE!

Put Your Hands Together
Hillside Food Pantry

Jewel Osco

THANK YOU, IMMANUEL!

Caring Network recently sent a letter thanking us for joining them in serving mothers and their unborn children.

By participating in Coins for Caring Network Baby Bottle Drive, Immanuel Hillside raised **\$717.71** toward the work of Caring Network, enabling them to serve clients, share the gospel and help mothers choose life for their children, as well as minister to those who have experienced abortion in the past.



The money we gave through the Baby Bottle drive will help Caring Network see women from neighboring Midwest states as well as from Oklahoma, Louisiana, and beyond. Our plan to address this increase includes a Telecare Clinic to handle more calls from women and opening new centers in areas where the need is greatest. They just recently signed founding documents to start new clinics in the Austin neighborhood of Chicago as well as in Aurora – expanding their ability to serve women in communities most at risk of choosing abortion, where a large number of

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10%
OF EVERY PURCHASE
GOES TO SUPPORT OUR
SCHOOLS PTO!

Free Shipping on orders over \$119



Raise Right - Scrip fundraising is a no-selling program that enables families to raise money for their church or school. Scrip is just another way to pay for everyday purchases using gift cards in place of cash, checks, and credit cards. You purchase gift cards from your organization at face value, and your coordinator orders those cards from Great Lakes Scrip Center at a reduced price. The difference is an instant rebate for Immanuel. It's that simple! Order Forms are in the church hallway or enroll online: www.shopwithscrip.com **Enrollment Code: 9D337C6F55761**

ENROLL TODAY

Full Day In-Person PreK & Kindergarten Programs

For more information, call - 708-562-5580 x 102

Immanuel Christian Academy Hillside

www.icahillside.org



Everything written in the Scriptures was written to teach us, in order that we might have hope through the patience and encouragement which the Scriptures gives. Romans 15:4

Getting the Most Out of Your Daily Bible Reading

As you read the Bible each day, allow the Scriptures to speak to you. This daily “dialogue “ between you and the biblical text will reveal new understandings about God, and about yourself.

August

1 Acts 25:13-27	16 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
2 Acts 26:1-23	17 1 Corinthians 9:1-23
3 Acts 26:24-27:8	18 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:22
4 Acts 27:9-26	19 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:16
5 Acts 27:27-44	20 1 Corinthians 11:17-34
6 Acts 28:1-15	21 1 Corinthians 12:1-13
7 Acts 28:16-31	22 1 Corinthians 12:14-31
8 1 Corinthians 1:1-25	23 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
9 1 Corinthians 1:26-2:16	24 2 Corinthians 1:1-22
10 1 Corinthians 3:1-23	25 2 Corinthians 1:23-2:17
11 1 Corinthians 4:1-21	26 2 Corinthians 3:1-18
12 1 Corinthians 5:1-13	27 2 Corinthians 4:1-18
13 1 Corinthians 6:1-25	28 2 Corinthians 5:1-21
14 1 Corinthians 7:1-24	29 2 Corinthians 6:1-18
15 1 Corinthians 7:25-40	30 2 Corinthians 7:1-16

Set aside time to read the bible on a daily basis.

Find a quiet place to read and reflect on each day's reading.

Begin with prayer, asking God for guidance and blessing.

A Month of Prayer

The fellowship of prayer consists of caring people who pray daily for members in the church. And school Members and their families will be listed in alphabetical order each month. Please pray for both their known and unknown needs. This month we focus on our return to school.

Pray for Admissions

1. Pray for registration which begins this week
 - 2.. Pray for new families to find Immanuel and know Jesus
- Pray for our school families, for a healthy, happy year**

3. Aguirre & Allen Families
4. Arce & Brantley Families
5. Burks & Cade Families
6. Caldwell & Canjura Families
7. Coe & Davis Families
8. Connally & Youhas Family
9. Davis & Fleming Families
10. Fructuoso & Lewis Families
11. Garcia & Gerard Families
12. Gipson & Harris Families
13. Harris-Allen & Henderson Families
14. Hiner & Holston Families
15. Hunt & Johnson Family
16. Johnson Daniels & McKenzie Family
17. Moore & Wright Families
18. Ortega & Perry Families
19. Ramirez & Shannon Families
20. Lang - Sims Family & Skinner Family
21. Tucker - Smith Family & Swims Family
22. Smith & Thomas Families
23. 1st day of School - Pray for a wonderful new year!
24. Starks-Smith & Brown-Thurman Family
25. Whitaker Family & Williams Family
26. Williams-Aromashodu Family

Pray for our staff

27. Czubernat, Honey, Ennis & Hampton Families

Pray for our teachers

28. Hempel & Svec Families
29. Pygman & Winston Families

Pray for our teachers with children at Immanuel

30. Nash & Woodruff Families

Pray for our Pastor

31. Pastor Steve and Family

For the Record

Deaths

Rose Slagle - July 20th



August Birthdays

5 - Jayla Pernel	23 - Mike Northcutt
6 - Paris Thomas	25 - Debbie Valentino
8 - Dave Svec	26 - Ron Arndt
12 - Tom Sierawski	28 - Johnny Welch
16 - Rashaad Smith	31 - Tracy Bell
21 - Lynn Rand	

August 2022

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	School Registration Appointments					
7 - Scrip Orders Due 9:30am Worship HC 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 Bible Study	8	9 Pastor returns from Vacation	10	11	12 - 7:00 p.m. Movie Night God's Not Dead II	13 Food Pantry 11am - 1pm
14 9:30am Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 Bible Study	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 9:30am Worship HC 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 Bible Study	22	23 First Day of school	24	25	26	27
28 9:30am Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 Bible Study	29	30	31			

2317 - 2329 South Wolf Road
Hillside, IL 60162

Church phone - 708-562-5590

School phone - 708-562-5580

E-Mail: general@immanuel-hillside.org

www.immanuel-hillside.org

RETURN REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL

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*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10*